

Fr. Norman Francis LORD 76 U.S.A. TZA USA

\* July 25, 1918 Fall River, MA

+ April 16, 1995 Rancho Mirage, CA

A noted young athlete in his high school years, he received his secondary schooling in his home town until 1935. Five years later, desirous of becoming a priest, he went to Cornwells for two years of college level studies.

Professed on August 15, 1943 at Ridgefield, CT, he attended the Ferndale seminary in Norwalk, CT, where he earned the customary B.A. and B.D. On June 10, 1948 he was ordained there.

His first assignment sent him in 1949 to Kilimanjaro, where he served successively at Kibosho, Mashati and Useri until in 1956 he flew back to the United States.

After two years as associate pastor at St. Mark's, Harlem, New York, he became associate editor and then editor of the Paraclete until in 1960 he was posted to St. Joseph's, Conway, AR, for two years.

He then had a series of one year assignments to St. Mary's, Sharpsburg, PA and to African-American parishes at Holy Spirit, Opelousas, LA, St. Paul's, Lafayette, LA, and Holy Spirit, Detroit until in 1965 he was transferred to St. Catherine's, Riverside, CA.

In 1968 he took charge of the Saint Joseph's mission at the Reservation for Native Americans of Saboba, San Jacinto, CA. He loved this type of ministry. Six years later, however, he was transferred to Our Lady of the Assumption at Carencro, LA, where he worked for three years. Then, at the request of Reservation's elders, he was reassigned to Soboba, and continued to function there till his retirement in 1988.

In all, he gave sixteen years of service in that difficult ministry. This shows that he had at last found a place where he could give himself wholeheartedly to his work, despite the challenge posed by the culture and way of living of the Native Americans. He deeply loved them and they reciprocated his love and concern for their well-being both spiritually and materially. In times of internal strife among the

people on the Reservation, he remained serene and conciliatory and more often than not managed to preserve the peace.

His retirement years were spent at Casa Laval in Hemet, CA. Having undergone a triple by-pass operation, he was recovering at Rancho Mirage when he quietly died in his sleep on East Sunday.